GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2299
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2002
UNCULTIVATED LAND IN KUTCH
SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large area of agricultural land in Kutch district of Gujarat remain uncultivated because of recurring droughts;

(b) if so, whether the Government have prepared any action plan to encourage drip irrigation as well as dry cropping and promote growing of herbal and medicinal plants viz. Allovira, Gokhru, Sonamukhi etc. in Kutch district;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the measures proposed to be taken to alleviate the hardships of the farmers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) to (c): The Government has not received any report about large areas of agricultural land in Kutch District of Gujarat remaining uncultivated due to recurring droughts. The Government is, however, providing assistance to the Government of Gujarat under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture- Supplementation/Complementation of State Efforts through Work Plans for taking of various activities. Under this scheme, the State Government has made efforts to take up drip irrigation in 60 ha in Kutch District during 2001-02. Among herbal plants, Sonamukhi is mostly being cultivated in Anjar, Bhachau and Rapar talukas of Kutch District. Assistance is being extended to the farmers by providing seeds and planting material, area expansion and demonstrations-cum-seed multiplication of medicinal plants. Besides, rainfed farming system is being promoted in nine watersheds covering about 16,000 ha in Kutch District.

(d) Does not arise.